

Public Comments on Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 26, 2014. Direct notice had been mailed to every City address and notice had also been placed in the Free Lance-Star. There were about 35 people in attendance and 13 of them spoke during the hearing. The names of speakers and their specific comments can be found in the meeting minutes (posted on the Planning Commission site). The following is a brief summary of the comments made, arranged by subject/issue:

Downtown

- Need to increase residential densities – to attract business, to bring services
- Do not use the oversize building at 601 Caroline Street as a benchmark for new development

Green space

- Need more green space, and trees

Homeless

- Need to address the presence of homeless persons downtown
- Vagrants are bringing crime and trash to the downtown neighborhood

Transportation

- Limit one way streets – they are auto friendly rather than pedestrian friendly
- Provide more transit
- Accelerate pathway development
- The I-95 corridor is choking the City and the proposed new interchange will not help
- Provide better access to the VRE station – need a safe route to the station from outlying parking areas

Rappahannock River

- Use the island under the Chatham Bridge for recreation
- Establish a white water park (at Ficklen's island)

Neighborhoods

- Need to connect older neighborhoods to the pathway system
- Older neighborhoods need sidewalks
- Need more density
- Need more senior housing
- Infill development needs to respect the neighborhood

Schools

- Remember that schools are overburdened because of new housing being built

These comments will be considered as the Comprehensive Plan revision continues. There will also be additional opportunities for comment during this process.